

(187)

SELECTIONS
FROM THE
VERNACULAR NEWSPAPERS

PUBLISHED IN THE
PUNJAB, NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCES, OUDH,

AND THE
CENTRAL PROVINCES,

Received from the 14th to the 21st of March, 1869.

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THE *Bhiddia Bilass*, of the 6th of March, does not require particular notice.

The *Nujm-ool Ukhbar*, of the 10th of March, after noticing one or two matters of no importance to Government, alludes to the orders concerning the holding of fairs, and the necessary sanitary arrangements at them. The editor remarks, that "without doubt the kind and merciful Government has established a most perfect mode of arrangement; and now, God willing, all fears of sickness will be at an end, and the people derive great comfort."

Under the heading "Affghanistan," it is said that the news from that place is very striking. "On the 20th of February, fresh news came from Herat to Cabul; the Ameer Shere Ali assembled some of his Sirdars, and had a very long private conference, which was so secret that no one could find it out; but the Sirdar Yakooob Khan made enquiries of the Commander-in-Chief (Furra Moze Khan) of Herat, when he replied, that Ibrahim, *hakim* (ruler) of Herat, writes thus—  
"I cannot now rule here. Apart from this, the Prince of Ma-

shand has sent a letter through the ruler of Herat to the Ameer Shere Ali, that the King of Persia has no care or desire for the country of Affghanistan; only he remembers that some time back your son, the Sirdar Yakoob Khan, came to Mashand, and signed the treaty of peace; and that in accordance with it, the title of 'Meer Affghanisthan' was given: now, things appear to be in opposition to it; that is, you have formed friendship with the English, and shelved the treaty. Now, although I heard this from several Affghans, still I received it as *bazar gup* (common rumour); but it is now certain; and, on this account, I send twelve thousand *sowars* (cavalry) to attack Herat. When the Sirdar Yakoob Khan heard this, he said, 'I did my best to dissuade the Ameer from his purpose, but it was of no avail; when Herat goes from his hands, his senses will return.' News came to Cabul to the effect that the Sirdar Isakh Khan, son of Azim Khan, has made over Turkistan to the Russians; and on the same day the report was rife that twelve thousand cavalry from Persia had taken possession of Herat, the Governor, Ibrahim, having been defeated; but these reports require confirmation." The writer goes on to state that the Ameer Shere Ali arrived on the 3rd at Peshawur, where he was shown great hospitality, and that he would be at Umballa on the 19th or 20th. He proceeds to say:—"In the interview between him and the Governor-General no point will be neglected. From all sides the army is crowding, and this Ameer, in his friendship for the English, has so much of glory and pride in him, that he thinks no one greater than himself. It is said that at Bulkh, there is another disturbance, and Abdul Rhyman Khan, has ran away; but when the English Government is friendly with the Ameer, what need can there be for such disturbances?"

The *Naiyar Akbar Ukhbar* of the 11th of March, and the *Oordoo Delhi Gazette* of the 13th, do not require particular notice.

The *Oudh Ukhbar*, of the 9th of March, on the authority of a correspondent, gives the following as a piece of happy news. "On the 22nd of the past month, the Prince Frederick of Schleswig Holstein, after visiting Delhi, proceeded to Benares, and put up at the Victoria hotel. The next day after his arrival the Commissioner paid the Prince a visit, and conveyed him thence to the Maharajah's palace, where he was suitably entertained by the Maharajah. On the 24th, the prince went towards Chukia for shooting, and there, where the Maharajah resides, there will be all sorts of gaiety kept up; and if the Prince remains until the 10th, the Maharajah will have the fair *Mungul*, got up on a very grand scale.

The *Allygurh Institute Gazette*, of the 12th of March, continues the discussion upon the language most suitable to be used in the Law Courts, by publishing a letter from Moulvie Syud Ahmed Khan Bahadoor, in reply to Baboo Saroda Pershad, which appeared in the *Allygurh Institute Gazette* of the 19th February, 1869. The writer is of opinion that there is no reason apparent for discouraging the use of the present mixed language, and to revive the dead old *Bhasha*.

It is said, that owing to improvements recently introduced into the Educational Department of the North-Western Provinces by Mr. Kempson, the Director of Public Instruction, the interest shown, and pecuniary support afforded by the European and native officials of the district, and the native community at large, as well as the acquisition of a building well suited for educational purposes, the Allygurh High School bids fair to rise in due time to a position second to none of its class.

The *Gwalior Gazette*, of the 28th of February, does not require particular notice.

The *Malwa Ukhbar*, of the 10th of March, remarks upon the mismanagement of Katiawar. It is said that when the report

of the Political Agent reached the Governor-General, and it was seen that the Naib was not worthy of his place, the Thakoor was at once written to and warned not to be so neglectful of his country; otherwise the Government would be compelled to interfere, when nothing will be listened to or accepted in the way of explanation. On this being done, Jai Shunker Lall, the present manager, will be changed, and Sri Lall Joun Jee, vakeel of Bhownuggur, will be appointed in his stead.

The farewell entertainment at Indore to Colonel Meade from the Maharajah of Indore is noticed.

The *Ukhbar Alum*, of the 11th of March, draws attention to the fact that the *Karnama Ukhbar* is not sent to the Government reporter on vernacular newspapers, because the manager of that paper is not aware of the Government order on the subject; nor does the translator know that such a newspaper is published in Oudh. He calls upon the manager of the *Oudh Ukhbar* or *Karnama* to state if there are other reasons why the paper is not forwarded.

The measures adopted by the Lieutenant-Governor, North-Western Provinces, for the protection of the poor, came in for high praise. It is said if the Relief Committees and relief measures had not been established in this manner, Hindoostanees could not have so assisted their own countrymen. The writer gives it as his opinion that in times of scarcity the Government ought to make quick arrangements, and an act to do this should be permanently established; when the market prices rise to such an extent, it ought to be looked upon the same as a famine; &c., &c. The writer advocates the formation of committees in different places, so that the poor may at once receive relief through the treasury, where the money collected should be deposited, as when there is great delay in affording relief it is not of much use; &c., &c. Allusion is then made to the Circular by the Lieutenant-Governor,

North-Western Provinces, announcing that there is no further necessity for subscriptions; &c., &c. The editor thinks it necessary that both the Government and the wealthy members of the community should still keep up subscriptions; and until the price of the worst kind of wheat is sold at 20 seers per rupee, thinks the poor should be looked to; and that as the Lieutenant-Governor has in his kindness interested himself with the Governor-General, it has been ordered that all Government servants in receipt of Rs. 5 per month shall receive an increase of one rupee per month; &c., &c. The writer thinks that the extra rupee ought to be continued until *atta* (meal) sells at fifteen seers per rupee.

The *Koh-i-Noor*, of the 13th of March, quotes the *Hindoo Patriot* concerning a limit to the term of office of a Governor-General. The writer is made to say:—"Oh, God! what rule is this by which no Governor is allowed to remain at the head of affairs in Hindoostan a longer period than five years! There is no doubt that this is not beneficial, because, when this term expires, whether the ruler be good or bad, he is removed, and is never allowed to become acquainted with the affairs of this country, so as to enable him to make improvements; and what name can be made? No doubt there is no appointment in Hindoostan, or even in all the world, greater than this; but because the term of office is so limited, the poor Governor does, or tries to do, his best, and even then he has not sufficient time to do anything;" &c., &c. The writer says, there is an impression in history which is daily gaining ground, that China will surpass Great Britain and Europe; and goes on to say, that when the term of a Governor is drawing to a close, he tries to hurry on with all he has left undone: that "Sir John Lawrence, during his latter days of service, made great haste to pass resolutions that had, from year to year, been neglected. These he worked up afresh, and having made them perfect, he submitted them, some of them being such resolutions as required

attention for many years longer, and even these, by snatching and pulling, became law." The writer is of opinion that it would be well to add two more years, and "even than the term would be too short." The dignity and honor of the Governor-General is such as one sees of the Kings in a puppet-show, the strings of which is held by those who make the dolls dance." Allusion is made to the civil and military measures drawn out by Major Chesney. The writer thinks that there are difficulties in them, which it will require years to overcome: it is also said that certain correspondence, taking up a whole year's time, is carried on about works which occupy but three years to accomplish; and that, while the time of the Governor-General is taken up by writing reports, other more important work is neglected; &c., &c. It is said that the works of Lord Canning, commenced in the years 1857-58, and that their results were all upset by Sir J. Lawrence. "Doubtless Sir J. Lawrence wished to attach or confiscate the rights of the Talookdars of Oudh, but he could not do so. The property of the Talookdars was released on condition that rebellion should cease, and so it happened that peace was restored, and the condition was complete. Then how could Sir J. Lawrence have desired to attach their rights? And because the Talookdars themselves did not loosen their hands and feet, and from all sides newswriters and editors sent forth a cry for justice, they escaped. Then Sir J. Lawrence snatched away from the Punjab zemindars their rights, their property, or estates. The Talookdars of Oudh (who are pupils of Maharajah Mân Singh) disappointed this gentleman very much. In the matter of the law of inheritance, which Lord Canning wished to establish in Oudh, did not come into operation in his time, owing to the rebellion; but what the Talookdars wished was done, and what Sir J. Lawrence and Mr. Strachey desired did not come to pass; but we look upon this as chance, the intention being that there should be some other Governor. In every way, Sir John kept the works of the

former Governor quiet; the evil fate of these Punjab zemindars thus befel them. Sir John met with disappointment from the Oudh Talookdars. Sir John Lawrence did not pay any attention to the favour shown them by Government;" &c., &c. The article is evidently quoted from the *Hindoo Patriot*, and concludes by stating that this "five years" tenure of office for a Governor-General is but one of sleeping and eating. He sees in each work some innate peculiarity, and looks to it, while all rules and regulations are folded up in haste; and where a name can be made, he takes no trouble to exert himself; these plans all become such a dream that a new Governor-General never looks at them, or into them, and in this way the association of ideas goes on;" &c., &c. The writer concludes by saying, that "if a Governor is not a good one, the people have to wait and bear up with him for five years until some better one arrives, and none but Lord Dalhousie remained longer than five years. The new Governor-General has no ill-natured or spiteful motives in upsetting the plans of the old one, and this change only fills the cup of sorrow with the sweet drink of hope. Many of the works of Sir J. Lawrence which he had in his eye, we do not think Lord Mayo will act up to. Sir J. Lawrence and his friends have no right to complain of this, as he himself acted in the same way."

The *Muir Gazette*, of the 13th of March, does not require particular notice.

The *Lawrence Gazette*, of the 13th of March, after much that is reprint, noticing the case of the Maharajah of Kupperthulla having been given in his favor at home, says that it is a piece of justice which has come from the Royal Court, and he is quite certain that the Tonk State case will be as justly dealt with, because the Ex-Nawab is, in the eyes of the world and himself, blameless; &c., &c.

The *Rahnoomai Punjab*, of the 12th of March, does not require particular notice.

The *Rohilkund Ukhbar*, of the 18th of March, discourses upon Chinese affairs, and says that the Emperor of China has resolved that, that portion of the country of Unan (Greece) which has for some time been in the hands of the Mussulmans shall be added again to the Chinese empire. (This is apparently quoted from some other paper referring to Chinese affairs).

The *Unjumun Hind*, of the 13th of March, alludes to the evident desire on the part of Government to assist land-holders to construct tanks, wells, &c., so that in times of long drought they may not suffer from want of water. The writer especially alludes to the people of Oudh, who have been exhorted to take advantage of this advice and assistance. It is shown that the Government has no other motive than the good of the country and the welfare of the people at heart; that no alteration in the "settlement will be made," &c., &c. The writer goes on to say:—"To some cowardly people this measure of assistance offered by Government will be productive of doubt and suspicion, but let it be made known to them that they have only to send in their requests to the Tehseeldars, and they will receive the loans upon easy terms;" &c., &c.

It is remarked that Lord Mayo is a Freemason, and is a patron of the craft in this country.

The *Khooshphul Ukhbar* is quoted, concerning the difficulty and delay experienced in obtaining justice from the Civil Courts. A case which has been pending for eleven years is instanced: the plaintiff, a widow, sought to obtain some two lakhs of rupees from the High Court, and signs of gaining her case cheered her. "But the expenses of barristers and other law fees amounted to one lakh and seventy-five thousand rupees; and it is a wonderful fact that the case is not yet ended; for the defendant, being dissatisfied, has again appealed, and it is now before the Privy Council. Let us see how long it will take to settle it there, and who wins.

In that nothing is omitted. But what will the expenses of both parties amount to? In giving judgment, the Justice Frere" (Phear?) "Sahib, expressed his surprise at the great expenses; and the editor of the *Hindoo Patriot* remarks that it is nothing new to obtain dear justice in this country, and instances the Supreme Courts, like the Courts of Ireland, in which both parties to the suit were ruined in seeking redress, and had nothing but one nose and two eyes each left; and so it was in the Supreme Courts;" &c., &c. The writer goes on to lament the law's delays, and the expenses incurred, and says that it would not take so long a time to conquer an empire as it does, in some instances, to gain a law-suit.

The *Sadiq-ool Ukhbar*, of the 13th of March, does not require especial notice.

The *Noor-ool Ubsar*, of the 5th of March, republishes an article headed "The Perfection of the Bengalees," in which the writer comments upon the opinion of the *Som Prakash* (Bengalee paper), and adds that the editor of that paper, thinking his opinion of very great value and importance, pronounces the appointment of Governor-General to be merely an extravagance, because the communication between Hindoostan and England has become so easy that each Governor, Lieutenant-Governor, Chief Commissioner, &c., &c., can, of themselves, report their own acts in managing the country, without the aid of the Governor-General, to England; &c., &c. The editor remarks, that if this is the opinion of the editor of the *Som Prakash*, he evidently looks upon this large country as small and insignificant; "and to our thinking it is quite necessary for such a large and important one, that the Government of it should remain in the hands of men of rank and position even greater than those who have been hitherto appointed to such posts. Let him also be a high-minded man, and if selected from the royal family, so much the better."

The *Mqofeed-ool Anam*, of the 11th of March, mentions the discovery of some superior earth for pottery in Delhi.

It is said that the Government desire is to restore the tomb of Humayoon to its former condition.

Complaint is made concerning the extortion practised by the contractors of the ferry Gunesh at Goozur Cossie (in the Rampore State). It is hoped that the officers of this State will take cognizance of it, and prevent it. The writer thinks that if it comes to the Nawab's ears, he will bring the offenders to book; "because," it is added, "the Nawab looks much to the comfort of travellers, and is a protector of the poor."

The *Karnama Hind*, of the 15th of March, alludes to a false report conveyed to the head officer of Azeemabad, to the effect that the Mahomedans would create a disturbance after the festival of the *Eed-ool-Fitr*; the consequence was that troops were called for from Dinapore, and for two nights and a day there was great anxiety. It is said that the man who gave the information is being searched for.

The *Nusseem Jounpoor*, of the 16th of March, does not require particular notice.

The *Sholatore*, of the 16th of March, notices, under the heading "Justice," the case of the widow of Seth Sudda Sookh Lall of Jeypoor, "who, being dissatisfied with the orders of the Maharajah of Jeypoor in the matter of pay and accounts, had complained to former Governor-Generals without avail; but as the heirs of this Seth, sent two or three petitions to the Governor-General now in office, to the effect that although they are residents of Jeypoor, they have banking agencies at Ajmere, Calcutta, &c., and wish to proceed to Ajmere for the purpose of carrying on business, it is said that the present Governor-General has directed the Agent in Rajpootana to request a reply from the Jeypoor State concerning this, as orders would be passed in it;" &c., &c.

The *Khair Khwah Punjab*, of the 16th of March, after extracts from other papers, notices the case of "a Hindoo who lately went to a temple at Kalee Ghát, near Calcutta, and cutting off his head, offered it as a sacrifice to Kalee Jee. But as the head had not been quite severed from the body, the man was found next morning and removed to the hospital, where he died. Every enquiry was made into this business, but nothing was discovered as to who the person was, or why he acted thus."

The *Ukmil-ool Ukhbar*, of the 17th of March, notices the order of the Governor-General for all respect and honour to be shown, by officers, civil and military, to the Ameer of Cabul.

The visit of the Chief of Kattiawar to Delhi is also noticed.

The *Kaleid Ummed*, of the 13th of March, alludes to a request made by the Government of Bengal that the appointment of Assistant Secretary might be abolished, and in lieu of it two native Assistant Secretaries be appointed on Rs. 800 each, to be increased gradually to Rs. 1,000: it is said that the Government of India would not sanction this.

The *Nujm-ool Ukhbar* of the 17th of March, and the *Naiyar Ukhbar* of the 18th, do not require particular notice.

The *Zea-ool Ukhbar*, of the 20th of March, says that the Ameer Shere Ali has offered Rs. 10,000 reward for the capture of Mahomed Azim Khan and Abdul Rhyman Khan; that is, Rs. 10,000 for each or either.

The *Gwalior Gazette*, of the 7th of March, remarks that in Eastern Bengal people have dealt hardly with the Government police. The writer says, "God knows what caste of men those are who go against the law, but just now it is not right that castes should prove rebellious."

The recent attack on the police at Kohat is noticed.

It is said that the troops quartered in the fort at Lahore have "gone ahead; one or two Hindoostanees have been wounded, and two cows have been killed; which," continues the writer, "requires attention."

The *Mujma-ool Bharain*, of the 18th of March, quotes the *Khooshphul Ukhbar* concerning Burmese affairs, and Captain Sladen's report; &c., &c.

The *Muir Gazette*, of the 19th of March, does not require particular attention.

The *Julwatore*, of the 19th of March, referring to the visit of the Ameer of Cabul to Umballa, says:—"Although it has been undertaken for the purpose of strengthening his friendship with the Government, ignorant people are ready with their views and remarks. Some say that the English, thinking that the Russians are daily advancing, and are bent on taking Hindoostan, the Government has got the Ameer over on their side; and, giving him money, has desired alliance. Others say, that because the Akhoond of Swat has made preparations for war, and has led away all the Kohistanee tribes, the meeting has taken place. Others again say that the Ameer has been sent for by the British Government because it has been decided to take Cabul. Some say that the Ameer is an ally of Russia and Persia, and that his visit of friendship is all pretence; that he will come with a lakh of troops, and bring Feroze Shah with him. The reason of the interview at Umballa is clear,—Umballa is nearer to Delhi than Peshawur, and there is not such a large force. Some are happy at all this; some sorrowful. The editor disagrees with them all; and says that the Ameer expressed a great desire to have this interview, and had written frequently about it to the Government officials, but owing to the unsettled state of affairs at Cabul nothing was decided: now that the aspect of affairs is changed, the interview has been brought

about, money has been lent (not given), and the Ameer has come on his own *mutlub* (or for reasons of his own), and all from beginning to end is false. The Akhoond of himself is a wretched *fakēer*; how can he fight? and should he do so, what will be his fate before a gun? for war now-a-days is not with swords, but with guns: we are not at a loss to understand what ideas they have got hold of. Feroze Shah's condition is this; he lately went to Swat, and sought assistance from the Akhoond. One person says that the Akhoond gave a distinct refusal; and he, Feroze Shah, returned to Bokhara helpless. Now we are quite surprised to find this about the Akhoond, viz., that he is collecting an army. All seems untrue and uncertain."

The *Oordoo Delhi Gazette*, of the 20th of March, does not require particular notice.

The *Murdhurmint*, of the 8th of March, contains much old matter. In the case of loans to agriculturists, the editor says that this assistance on the part of Government is fraught with benefits to the people of the country; and that he would be very glad to see his countrymen doing the same with their people, as there is a great deal of good in it, and had it been done before, the effects of the late scarcity would not have been so much felt.

A complaint is made against the Kotwal of Palee, who is said to be always in a state of intoxication and in bad company.

The *Guain Purdain* of — January, and the *Benares Ukhbar* of the 18th of March, do not require particular attention.

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The following vernacular newspapers have been examined in this Report, viz. :—

| No. | NAME OF PAPER.                  | WHERE PUBLISHED.  | DATE.    |      | WHEN RECEIVED. |      |
|-----|---------------------------------|-------------------|----------|------|----------------|------|
|     |                                 |                   | 1869.    |      | 1869.          |      |
| 1   | Bhiddia Bilass, ...             | Jummoo, ...       | March    | 6th  | March          | 14th |
| 2   | Nujm-ool Ukhbar, ...            | Meerut, ...       | "        | 10th | "              | 14th |
| 3   | Naiyar Akbar Ukhbar, ...        | Bijnour, ...      | "        | 11th | "              | 14th |
| 4   | Oordoo Delhi Gazette, ...       | Agra, ...         | "        | 13th | "              | 14th |
| 5   | Oudh Ukhbar, ...                | Lucknow, ...      | "        | 9th  | "              | 15th |
| 6   | Allygurh Institute Gazette, ... | Allygurh, ...     | "        | 12th | "              | 15th |
| 7   | Gwalior Gazette, ...            | Gwalior, ...      | Feby.    | 28th | "              | 16th |
| 8   | Malwa Ukhbar, ...               | Indore, ...       | March    | 10th | "              | 16th |
| 9   | Ukhbar Alum, ...                | Meerut, ...       | "        | 11th | "              | 16th |
| 10  | Koh-i-Noor, ...                 | Lahore, ...       | "        | 13th | "              | 16th |
| 11  | Meerut Gazette, ...             | Meerut, ...       | "        | 13th | "              | 16th |
| 12  | Lawrence Gazette, ...           | Ditto, ...        | "        | 13th | "              | 16th |
| 13  | Rahnoomai Punjab, ...           | Sealkote, ...     | "        | 12th | "              | 18th |
| 14  | Rohilkund Ukhbar, ...           | Moradabad, ...    | "        | 13th | "              | 18th |
| 15  | Unjumun Hind, ...               | Lucknow, ...      | "        | 13th | "              | 18th |
| 16  | Sadiq-ool Ukhbar, ...           | Bhawulpoor, ...   | "        | 13th | "              | 18th |
| 17  | Noor-ool Ubsar, ...             | Allahabad, ...    | "        | 15th | "              | 18th |
| 18  | Moofeed-ool Anam, ...           | Futtehgurh, ...   | "        | 11th | "              | 19th |
| 19  | Karnama Hind, ...               | Lucknow, ...      | "        | 15th | "              | 19th |
| 20  | Nusseem Jounpoor, ...           | Jounpoor, ...     | "        | 16th | "              | 19th |
| 21  | Sholatore, ...                  | Cawnpoor, ...     | "        | 16th | "              | 19th |
| 22  | Khair Khwah Punjab, ...         | Goojranwalla, ... | "        | 16th | "              | 19th |
| 23  | Ukmil-ool Ukhbar, ...           | Delhi, ...        | "        | 17th | "              | 19th |
| 24  | Kaleid Ummid, ...               | Lahore, ...       | "        | 13th | "              | 19th |
| 25  | Nujm-ool Ukhbar, ...            | Meerut, ...       | "        | 17th | "              | 20th |
| 26  | Naiyar Akbar Ukhbar, ...        | Bijnour, ...      | "        | 18th | "              | 20th |
| 27  | Zea-ool Ukhbar, ...             | Delhi, ...        | "        | 20th | "              | 21st |
| 28  | Gwalior Gazette, ...            | Gwalior, ...      | "        | 7th  | "              | 21st |
| 29  | Mujma-ool Bharain, ...          | Loodiana, ...     | "        | 18th | "              | 21st |
| 30  | Muir Gazette, ...               | Meerut, ...       | "        | 19th | "              | 21st |
| 31  | Julwatore, ...                  | Ditto, ...        | "        | 19th | "              | 21st |
| 32  | Oordoo Delhi Gazette, ...       | Agra, ...         | "        | 20th | "              | 21st |
| 33  | Murdhurmint (Nagree), ...       | Joudpoor, ...     | "        | 8th  | "              | 15th |
| 34  | Guain Purdain (Ditto), ...      | Ditto, ...        | Jan'y. — |      | "              | 18th |
| 35  | Ukhbar Benares (Ditto), ...     | Benares, ...      | March    | 18th | "              | 21st |

(True translation.)

GEORGE WAGENTREIBER,

Government Reporter on the Vernacular Press,

DELHI :

The 1st April, 1869.

} Upper India.